THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Expert Group of Eminent Scientists has been constituted to advise on strategies towards goals of *sustainability*.

2513. [*Transferred to the 26th March, 1992*].

World Bank Report on Agriculture

2514. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the criticism of Agriculture R and D by World Bank in its confidential report, as reported in the E.T. of 21st October, 1991 and if so full details thereof and corrective steps taken if any;

(b) whether it is correct that ICAR evaluation system has failed to be effective; and

(c) whether a high powered Evaluation Team is proposed to be set up to evaluate the work of ICAR with special reference to its role and success and otherwise of ensuring food Security for the future vis-a-vis continued imports of farm products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The report which appeared in the Economic Times of October 21, 1991 under the caption "Indian Agriculture: the World Bank View" discussess the entire gamut of Indian agricultural development. It says that research effort has neglected farm management and has primarily been on plant breeding for foodgrains and other crops,

In order to increase productivity per unity area and also to ensure increased inbuilt sustainability, the present thrust of agricultural research is on diversification of cropping system by promoting new crops and also by increased coverage under crops suited for the non-traditional areas. Apart from providing improved varieties of seeds to farmers, the approach is on ecologically sound integrated pest management.

(b) ICAR evaluation system has not been found to be ineffective.

(c) No Sir.

Degradation of land

2515. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the land degradation in the country has taken alarming proportions threatening food production as also quality of lives of poor farmers and if so, factors leading to this situation;

(b) what has been the actual area of land so degraded as in 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990;

(c) what corrective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken in the matter during the 8th plan period; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to follow the lead given in this matter by the US National Research Council as brought out in a review on the subject by the noted writer A. T. Dudani in the Pioneer of 25th January, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Factors of land degradation are:—

(i) Climate and topography; (ii) Salinity and alkalinity; (iii) Overgrazing; (iv) Deforestation; (v) Environmental pollution; (vi) Shifting cultivation; (vii) Improper land used etc.

(b) No systematic survey has been carried out to find out the land degraded in various decades. However, a recent estimate shows that an area of 1749.68 lakh hectare of the country is affected by various Land degradation problems.

(c) So far an area of 358.13 lakh hectare has been treated with various soil & water conservation measures with an expenditure of Rs. 2725.94 crores. The effort will continue during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(d) Government is aware of the news item which appeared in the pioneer of 25th January, 1992. A multi-disciplinary approach is being adopted to tackle the problems as envisaged in the news item.

Production and consumption of pulses and edible oils

2516. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual production and consumption of pulses and edible oils in the country;

(b) the extent of imports thereof during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken so far to achieve self-reliance in pulses and edible oils; and

(d) by when the country is likely to become self-reliant in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The average estimated annual production and consumption of pulses and edible oils (1988-89 to 1990-91) was as follows:—

(Quantity lakh tonnes)

	Production	Consumption
Pulses . .	135·90	142·90
Edible . .	50.98	54.60

(b) The import of pulses and edible oils during the last three years was as follows: —

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Year	Pulses	Edible Oil (Oil Year)
1988-89 . . .	8·58	3·73
1989-90 . . .	4·62	6·07
1990-91 . . .	7·92	1·08

(c) In order to increase the production of Oilseeds & Pulses specific Central|Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented. In the case of oilseeds, the centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programmes is being implemented. In the case of pulses the centrally sponsored National Pulses Development Programme and the central Special Food Production Programme for Pulses under implementation. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided to the States on basic inputs like seeds, plant protection measures, improved agricultural implements, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets etc. in addition to transfer of technology through block demonstrations (by States) and frontline demonstrations by ICAR. Both oilseeds and pulses have been covered by the mission mode approach under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMO&P).